

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Recruiting for the KVP and VP

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1. A meeting took place on 8 March between representatives of the SED Berlin Bezirksleitung, the mass-organizations and the KVP. The role of the mass-organizations in improving the KVP's political work and the progress of the KVP's recruiting campaign were discussed. The FDJ has had a large part of the responsibility for recruiting and it came out during the discussion that members of the FDJ Bezirksleitung had been called to task by Hermann Axen because of the Party's dissatisfaction with the uninspiring recruiting methods being used. Axen attributed the slow pace of voluntary recruitment to the lack of qualifications of the FDJ members concerned with it. In the future not only will recruiting delegations be sent into the factories but meetings must be held which will make the idea of joining the KVP attractive. All arguments against the necessity for strengthening the KVP at this particular time must be dealt with summarily, said Axen. It was in fact not a question of strengthening but of replacing older comrades who had to retire, and of giving those members who had worked themselves to exhaustion since 17 June a chance to rest.
2. In VEB Funkwerk Kopenick, during March 1954, young workers have been called up before a committee of local SED officials and a Volkspolizei officer, and pressed to enroll in the Volkspolizei. The committee has also confronted certain of them with remarks they are reported to have made during the 17 June disturbances, asking them for an explanation and evidence that they have since regretted them.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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